

SYRIAN FRONTIER DISPUTE.

FRANCO-TURKISH TENSION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 7.

To-day's official *Milliet* publishes a detailed account of alleged acts of brigandage on the Turco-Syrian frontier. The *Milliet* accuses the French authorities in Syria of encouraging this brigandage, and states that the notorious bandit Hadjo is an agent of the French authorities and, along with his band of 800 men, is continually engaged in stirring up trouble between Turkey and Syria. "The French," the newspaper states, "have accorded to Hadjo a special importance, and for the first time in diplomatic annals a bandit has been entrusted with such a mission."

Such language coming from the official Turkish organ would be serious enough at any time, but it becomes specially important in view of Mustapha Kemal Pasha's speech at the opening of the Grand National Assembly at Angora on November 1. Mustapha Kemal declared that security did not reign along the Syrian frontier, and added that it was necessary to find an effective practical and radical solution of this question. With this object in view negotiations were begun at Angora last week between the Turkish Foreign Minister, Tewfik Rushdi Bey, and the new French Ambassador, the Comte de Chambrun.

The questions due to be discussed are of a somewhat serious nature, dealing as they do with a strip of territory 50 miles long and a few miles deep, and possessing strategic importance, between Nisibin and Jeziret Ibn Omar. The River Tigris flows through this territory, and the question in dispute is how the frontier should run. By the agreement reached at Angora in 1926 between M. Henri de Jovenel, then French High Commissioner in Syria, and the Turkish Government, the frontier should follow the old road between the two places mentioned above. An International Commission was appointed by the League of Nations, with the Danish General Ernst as chief, which carefully examined the territory in question and gave its award. It would appear that this award was favourable to France.

Meanwhile it seems that Turkish frontier posts occupy a line in advance of the frontier which the Commission fixed but which has not yet been delimited. This matter will form the principal object of the negotiations between the Comte de Chambrun and Tewfik Rushdi Bey. But there are other and almost equally important matters in dispute, and I understand that the Turkish authorities greatly resent the hospitable attitude of the French authorities in the Aleppo neighbourhood towards the Turkish *émigrés* who are opposed to the Kemalist régime.

Both negotiators have assured me that they ardently desire to settle the matter amicably; but at present both countries appear determined not to give way, and consequently relations between France and Turkey risk becoming envenomed.